(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism supports relaxation of Inner line permits and also introduction of 'Visa-on-arrival' for selected countries.

Rationalisation of tax structure on Hotels from Tourism point of view

†2913. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suggested to the States to make the taxes to be imposed on hotels rational with a view to provide facilities to the tourists;

(b) if so, the State which were given such suggestions together with the dates and the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned States on the suggestions of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The matter regarding rationalisation of taxes by the State Governments/Union Territories on hotels and other tourism industry was discussed in the recent State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 4th and 5th March, 2005 in New Delhi. It was recognised that Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment generation. It was, therefore, passed in the Resolution that the States would work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destination competitive. It was agreed that this would lead to increase in tourist arrivals and generate higher revenues. The States would also explore the possibility of drawing up a model uniform taxation regime in each zone.

Promotion of rural tourism

2914. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned funds to Tamil Nadu to develop

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rural tourism during the last three years taking into account the fact that a number of historical temples are located in the villages of Tamil Nadu.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop village tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on proposals received from State Government of Tamil Nadu funds were released to develop rural tourism in that State The details are as follows:

2002-03	No proposals were received from State Government
2003-04	Three proposals were received
(i)	Kazhugumalai Rs. 50 lakhs sanctioned
(ii)	Theerthamalai Rs. 50 lakhs sanctioned
(iii)	Chhettinadu Rs. 50 lakhs sanctioned
2004-05	Two proposals were received
(i)	Karaikudi Rs. 20 lakhs sanctioned
(ii)	Kazhugumalai Rs. 20 lakhs sanctioned

(c) The creation of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development, while community participation and the capacity building including skill up gradation in such rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. The Central Assistance for infrastructure creation, which has been extended till now is enclosed as Statement-I and the central assistance extended for capacity building etc. under UNDP project is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

The 42 Rural Sites for which Central Assistance has been extended for infrastructure creation till date.

No	Site	District	State
2002-2003			
1.	Kokkare	Belur	Karnataka
2.	Raghurajpur	Puri	Orissa
3.	Jageshwar	Almora	Uttaranchal
2003-2004			
1.	Pochampali	Nalgonda	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Konaseema	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Nepura	Nalanda	Bihar
4.	Nagarhar	Bastar	Chhattisgarh
5.	Chitrakote-I	Bastar	Chhattisgarh
6.	Chitrakote-II	Bastar	Chhattisgarh
7.	Champaran	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
8.	Nangli Razapur	—	Delhi
9.	Kotla Mubarakpur	—	Delhi
10.	Hodka	Kachchn	Gujarat
11.	Navagaon & Malegaon	Rajkot	Gujarat
12.	Tera	Bhuj	Gujarat
13.	Jyotisar	Kurukshetra	Haryana
14.	Naggar	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh
15.	Pragpur	Kangra Valley	Himachal Pradesh
16.	Anegundi	Bellary	Karnataka
17.	Attiveri Bird Sanctuary	Uttara Kannada	Karnatake
18.	Coorg	Coorg	Karnataka
19.	Banavasi	Uttara Kannada	Karnataka
20.	Aranamula	Pathanamthitta	Kerala
21.	Kumbalangi	Ernakulam	Kerala
22.	Chaugan	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
24.	Samode	Jaipur	Rajasthan
25.	Neemrana	Alwar	Rajasthan
26.	Kazhugumalai	Thoothkudi	Tamil Nadu
27.	Theerthamalai	Dharampuri	Tamil Nadu
28.	Chhettinadu	Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu
29.	Jampui Hills	North Tripura	Tripura
30.	Santiniketan	Birbhum	West Bengal
2004-2005			
1.	Puttapurthi	Ananthapur	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Srikalahasti	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Chinchinada	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Dehing Patkai-Kshetra	Tinsukia	Assam

No	Site	District	State
5.	Balarampuram	Thiruvanathapuram	Kerala
6	Pranpur	Ashoknagar	Madhya Pradesh
7	Pipli	Puri	Orissa
8	Lachen	North District	Sikkim
9.	Sonada	Darjeeling	West Bengal

Statement-II

The 30 Rural Sites for which Central Assistance has been extended for capacity building till date.

No.	Site	District	State
1.	Pochampali	Nalgonda	Andhra Pradesh
2	Srikalahasti	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Sualkuchi	Kamrup	Assam
4.	Durgapur	Golaghat	Assam
5.	Nepura	Nalanda	Bihar
6.	Chitrakote	Bastar	Chhattisgarh
7.	Nagarnar	Bastar	Chhattisgarh
8.	Hodka	Kachchh	Gujarat
9.	Jyotisar	Kurukshetra	Haryana
10.	Naggar	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh
11.	Banavasi	Uttara Kannada	Karnataka
12.	Aranamula	Pathanamthitta	Kerala
13.	Kumbalangi	Ernakulam	Kerala
14.	Pranpur	Ashok Nagar	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Chaugan	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
16.	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	Aurangabad	Maharasthra
17.	Raghurajpur	Puri	Orissa
18.	Pipli	Puri	Orissa
19.	Rajasansi	Amritsar	Punjab
20.	Haldighati	Rajsamand	Rajasthan
21.	Neemrana	Alwar	Rajasthan
22.	Samode	Jaipur	Rajasthan
23.	Lachen	North District	Sikkim
24.	Karaikudi	Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu

No	Site	District	State
25.	Kazhugumalai	Thoothkudi	Tamil Nadu
26.	Kamlasagar	West Tripura	Tripura
27.	Bhaguwala	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
28.	Mana	Chamoli	Uttaranchal
29.	Ballabhpur Danga	Birbhum	West Bengal
30.	Mukutmanipur	Bankura	West Bengal

Promotion of tourism in A.P.

2915. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the integrated tourist circuits and destinations identified by the Central Government in consultation with Andhra Pradesh Government during the last three years and till date;

(b) the funds sanctioned for each tourist circuit in Andhra Pradesh and utilization thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote tourism in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) A Statement giving details of tourist circuit and destinations sanctioned for Central financial assistance during the last three years is attached. (*See* below)

Execution and implementation of the project sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.